

# Liaison

## Library Association News-Sheet

News Editors: E. E. Moon and R. G. Surridge

April 1958

### NALGO NOT TO BLAME

I have read with some surprise the reference on page 112 of *Liaison* for February 1958 to the position regarding "the A.P.T. II award", where it is stated: "The Council also heard that Nalگو had been unable to call a meeting of their Grading Sub-Committee before 3rd February. The result is that the award for librarians cannot be now considered by the National Joint Council before April."

There is no question of Nalگو causing any delay in this matter. The Grading Sub-Committee referred to is, of course, not a Nalگو body but a Sub-Committee of the National Joint Council and the dates of meetings are arranged by the Joint Secretaries according to the availability of the various personnel of the body concerned, and of the other items of business concerned, and having regard to the timetable of meetings of the superior bodies, that is the Executive Committee and the National Joint Council itself. The report of the Grading Sub-Committee on 3rd February went according to the normal machinery to the Executive Committee on 26th February and the report of the Executive Committee constitutionally will reach the National Joint Council at its next meeting in April, so that in any event had a decision been reached the timetable would have remained the same, nor would an earlier meeting of the Grading Sub-Committee have altered that timetable. Therefore, the implication in the suggestion that "the result . . . cannot now be considered by the National Joint Council before April" is misleading. That was the position in any event. The fact is, of course, that it was not possible to reach a decision in the Grading Sub-Committee for reasons of which you are aware following the consultations between your Association and Nalگو and the matter will, therefore, be resumed at the next meeting of the Grading Sub-Committee.

A number of letters have been received at headquarters from members and branches arising from the statement made in *Liaison* and I have felt obliged to clarify the position when replying. I think it would be helpful if you could make some clarification of the position in your next issue.

W. C. ANDERSON,  
General Secretary, Nalگو.

*Mr. Anderson is right to affirm that Nalگو cannot be blamed for the delay. The note in February's Liaison was an expression more of hope than of approbation. The only point on which we would take issue is that it was the over-optimistic attitude of the Nalگو Staff Side representatives in their early meetings with the L.A. representatives which led us to hope that the negotiations might reach N.J.C level even as early as January.—EDS.*

**N.C.L. Appointment** . . . As we go to press it has just been announced that Mr. S. P. L. Filon, B.Sc., F.L.A., has been appointed Librarian of the National Central Library. Mr. Filon, who was previously Deputy, succeeds Mr. R. H. Hill, who is retiring.

## Unique Library-Rare Librarian

Towards the end of July the B.B.C. Librarian, Miss Florence Milnes, will close her office door for the last time in thirty-three and a half years' service with the B.B.C. Outside that door, and covering more than half the second floor of Broadcasting House, is the Reference Library which she built up and organized herself.

Miss Milnes joined the B.B.C. in January, 1925 to do programme research. She was the first to realize the need for a reference library on the spot, a place where programme compilers and producers could consult the best books on the subjects of their broadcasts—which means any and all subjects; a place where they could be assured of trained and specialized help from expert librarians. Miss Milnes knew that accuracy in broadcasting matter would be one of the foundations on which the B.B.C. would build its reputation and this surely has been proved beyond doubt. It was not until two years later, that is, in 1927, that tentative permission was given to her to start a library, and so with an official stock of one encyclopaedia and one Bible, the Library service came into being.

Today the Reference Library has three Branch Libraries and the stock between them totals around 70,000 volumes. The Central Library, Broadcasting House, holds approximately 47,000 books. This being the focal point of the service, many of the senior assistants have specialized knowledge of the subjects such as bibliography, music, science and drama. The history of broadcasting and the BBC is also itself a subject in the Library's provision. Each Branch is in the charge of an Assistant Librarian holding the highest possible academic qualifications and all Library Assistants must be fully trained chartered librarians. Routine work is done by junior staff who are training in librarianship.

For the BBC's External Services there are Branch Libraries at Bush House and Caversham where the stock is composed mainly of works with world coverage, and of international and diplomatic interest.

With the opening of Television, Miss Milnes, who had foreseen the need, at once started a library at Alexandra Palace and, in particular, an illustrations section. This library has since moved to Television Centre and at present has a stock of 6,400 books and some 275,000 illustrations. This was, and is, the first library in the world to be equipped especially to suit and serve the new medium of Television. Its object is to provide pictorial as well as written information—a vast project which is justifying itself over and over again in serving the needs of producers and designers.

Miss Milnes when she retires leaves a staff of 46 people, of whom she—and the BBC—may well be proud. They owe to her their training in providing a library service for broadcasting. It is this special purpose of the Library which means that it must exist for BBC staff alone, and through them the broadcasters who appear in programmes. The Library is not therefore open to the public. It serves

broadcasting in the same way that a university library serves scholarship. It not only is a centre of research by others, but conducts research itself. The requests are incessant for information and for answers to queries—maybe a quick check before a programme goes on the air, a sudden qualm about the facts for a Light Entertainment quiz—but also for the longer-term needs of Music and Drama Departments (for both of which there are highly specialized sections of the Library). Then, too, there are all the demands of the Spoken Word—talks and features, as well as religious broadcasts and broadcasts to schools. Last but not least are the highly technical requirements of the BBC's engineers.

Florence Milnes was awarded the M.B.E. in 1943 in recognition of her great services. Members of the BBC staff have cause to thank her—and do so—all the time, while unsolicited tributes flow in from all over the world. She is too busy to make any plans for her retirement except to hope that she can keep some connections with the Library world.

## B.B.C. BOOK NEWS

### To Be Sent To Libraries

The Assistant to the B.B.C.'s Head of Publicity has informed us that the B.B.C. Quarterly Schedule, giving an advance summary of books that are to be adapted, serialised or read in B.B.C. sound radio and television programmes, is being circulated to a number of libraries on a list provided by the Library Association.

The libraries concerned are those serving populations over 50,000. A letter is also being sent from the B.B.C. Head of Publicity asking librarians to send a postcard to him if they are seriously interested in receiving the list of books regularly.

## ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY Electrically Operated Shelving

Aberdeen University had its newly completed extensions opened on Friday, 7th March, by Sir Alexander Gray, Professor emeritus of political economy at Edinburgh University and Professor at Aberdeen from 1921-1934. In the course of his sparkling address to the 250 guests, Sir Alexander (who was chairman of the 1947 committee on the Scottish Central Library) spoke of the library as the central organ of the university.

"The communal library", he said, "is assuming a wholly new importance. We tend to become a race of bungalow-burrowers, and in another half-generation we shall live in roomettes and flatlets and rabbit-hutches, with curious repercussions on the arts. The coming race will have no room for a piano, no walls for pictures, and their books must adapt themselves to their environment. The old-fashioned private library is on the way out and is being replaced by a flurry of Penguins, while more and more we are relying on books which are not our own."

The main addition is a new wing which adjoins the library, and will house 80,000 volumes of periodicals on the 1st and 2nd floors, with academic senatus room and six offices for staff on the ground floor. Both staff and periodicals badly needed the extra space. The first floor includes a periodicals reading room, and there are individual tables against the windows in the stacks for senior members of the university.

The new map room, at the entrance to the main library, includes a gallery where tracing tables and microfilm readers may be used. Other new features in the main library are revolving doors, long curving counter, cloakroom, and separate reference room.

Pièces de resistance for visiting librarians are the new photographic department and the underground book store, both in the basement of the adjoining Elphinstone Hall. The equipment of the former includes both photostat and microfilm cameras. The remainder of the basement is fitted with electrically operated Compactus shelving of a new Swiss design to house about 110,000 little-used volumes in space which, with ordinary shelving, would take about 45,000 volumes.

A previous notice of some of these alterations appeared in the *Library Association Record* of November 1957, p. 373. The work was completed in three years, at a cost of about £150,000.

The B.B.C. reported the opening the same evening in its Scottish television and sound news bulletins, including part of Sir Alexander Gray's speech. Full accounts also appeared in the next day's *Aberdeen Press and Journal* and *The Scotsman*.

J. V. HOWARD  
*Aberdeen University Library*

## "Commercial Libraries"

A letter from Mr. H. Collier, the Librarian of Swadlincote Public Library, appeared in the *L.A. Record*, February, reporting an offer by a firm of civic map publishers to pay £4 per thousand for advertisement labels gummed into library books. Mr. Collier said that he understood the public libraries throughout the country were being approached.

This would appear to be confirmed by the fact that about the same time we received a clipping from the *Ilford Recorder*, date 23rd January. Under the headline "Council take a cue from I.T.V." this reported that a commercial firm had made the same offer to the Ilford Council—£4 annually per thousand books. It was also reported that the Libraries Committee "are recommending the council to agree to the scheme, subject to full details being negotiated by the Town Clerk and the Borough Librarian".

Since the newspaper report indicated that the recommendation would be discussed at the end of January we wrote to the Borough Librarian early in February to ask whether the scheme had been accepted by his Council. In his letter in the *Record* Mr. Collier asked: "Who, by accepting the idea, fanned this firm's enthusiasm so that the owners thought it was a good thing to try throughout the country?" We do not know whether Ilford accepted the scheme, because the Borough Librarian, in response to our enquiry, simply said: "I am unable to give you any further information."



# ANOTHER LIBRARY CRISIS

Cinemas close and pressure is put upon the government to reduce the Entertainments Tax. Theatres close and a famous actress screams protest from the balcony of the House of Lords. One after another our great national libraries run into serious financial difficulties and scarcely a murmur of protest is heard.

The latest struggle for existence in the library world was brought to our attention by Mr. A. G. Curwen, a member of the Westminster Public Libraries staff, who sent us an intriguing clipping from the *Sunday Times* which read as follows:

"MAN IS THE PROPER STUDY OF MAN. Any amount £1 to £10,000 given for upkeep and expansion of the Library of the Royal Anthropological Institute will be doubled by generous Fellow."

On enquiry we were informed that the background to this appeal appeared in a letter to *The Times* on 4th March. This stated that the library had been running at an annual deficit of over £1,000 for several years, and that at the present rate it could not continue for more than another two years. An endowment fund of £50,000 was needed to meet the deficit, save the Institute and allow for expansion of the more important activities. Members have already contributed £7,000, and a sum of £20,000, raised from the sale by Mrs. Seligman of the Benin Ivory Mask, is being generously donated to the Institute to match, pound for pound, the money raised from other sources.

The Library contains one of the finest anthropological collections in the world, such areas as Africa and the Middle East being particularly well represented. Full facilities of the library are available to all members of the Institute and the Reading Room is open to qualified persons doing special research in anthropology. There are over 35,000 volumes in the library's stock, and inquiries are dealt with from Governments and individuals all over the world.

The Institute receives no direct Government assistance, and administrative and publishing funds are derived entirely from members and "sympathetic individuals". All officers serve without fees.

The appeal states that anthropological books are also welcome, including travel books, Africana, Americana, Orientalia and runs of Journals. Any donations should be sent to the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 21 Bedford Square, W.C.1.

## FRANK BLUNT RETIRES

Mr. Frank E. Blunt, senior director of the old family business of G. Blunt and Sons, Ltd., retired on 31st March. Nearly forty years ago he introduced the Library Binding business to the firm, and afterwards bookselling. Many librarians will remember the introduction of the Brighter Library Bindings as a forerunner to the Facsimile Binding which proved so popular. During his many years of travelling he made a large circle of friends in the library profession both at home and abroad.

With effect from 1st April, Messrs Cassell & Co., Ltd., acquired the share capital of G. Blunt & Sons, Ltd., of Harlesden and Great Russell Street. The business of Blunt's will remain the same, and the management will not be affected in any way.

## CO-OPERATION

An article on *Library Co-operation in Great Britain*, by J. Clement Harrison, Head of the Manchester School of Librarianship, appears in the January issue of *Library Trends*. In concluding this article Mr. Harrison says:

"Library co-operation in Great Britain would seem, therefore, to have reached a critical stage." Much of the old "national system of free co-operation" will have to go. Its achievements have not been negligible, but as a means of attaining the objective of an organized national service "it has proved itself quite inadequate."

We understand that Mr. Harrison was one of six candidates short-listed in February from a very strong field for the post of Librarian of the National Central Library.

## KATE GREENAWAY & CARNEGIE MEDALS

W. Mayne is to receive the L.A.'s Carnegie Medal for the outstanding children's book of 1957, *A Grass Rope* (O.U.P.). The sub-committee responsible for this selection recommended that the following list of commended books of 1957 be printed:

G. Avery, *The Warden's Niece* (Collins).

A. Barrett, *Songbird's Grove* (Collins).

A. Forest, *Falconer's lure* (Faber).

W. Mayne, *The blue boat* (O.U.P.).

K. Savage, *The story of the Second World War* (O.U.P.).

R. Sutcliffe, *The silver branch* (O.U.P.).

The Kate Greenaway Medal is awarded for outstanding illustrations of children's books each year. This year it goes to Miss V. H. Drummond for her illustrations to *Mrs. Easter and the Storks* (Faber). This is the second award of this medal. An appreciation of the work of both medal winners will appear in next month's *Record*.

## Dry Writing

Xerography as a printing technique is moving from the examination syllabus into the work of the practising librarian. The *Local Government Chronicle* for the 22nd March records the activities of two local authorities in installing Xerographic equipment.

Croydon Borough Council, through its printing department which is directed by the Chief Librarian, T. E. Callander, has been using this technique for some months to produce agendas, minutes and other documents. There they find it useful because of its speed, its cheapness and because it gives a better reproduction than orthodox duplicating methods.

Coventry City Council, likewise experimenting in this direction, has arrived at similar conclusions.

## New Words for O.E.D.

Mr. Frank H. Smith, Librarian of the Royal Aeronautical Society, writing in the January 24th issue of *Engineering*, asked whether "there is any special agency for keeping the *Oxford Dictionary* primed on new words." On 7th February, *Engineering* printed a reply which may be of general interest to librarians.

The reply from R. W. Burchfield, Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary Supplement*, said: "I am glad to say that there is. A start has been made on a new Supplement to the *O.E.D.*, in which will be incorporated all important accessions of new words, senses and phrases since 1930, fused with the material in the existing Supplement. We shall be pleased to send further information to any of your readers interested in contributing to this work."

Mr. Burchfield gave his address as 40, Walton-crescent, Oxford.

## RARE BOOKS FROM CHATSWORTH

### Offer to British Museum

A selection of 140 books from the Chatsworth library has been offered for sale to the British Museum. The price is not yet settled, but it is thought that it will be under £100,000.

Included in the collection are a block-book *Biblia Pauperum*, and over 60 incunables. The latter include three from the press of Antoine Verard, and 14 printed by Wynkyn de Worde, several of them unique copies. Other items selected are a number of sixteenth and seventeenth century English books, of most of which no other copies are recorded, and eight bindings of exceptional quality, including a splendid "Grolier". There are a number of other books of less general interest which are of smaller monetary value, but are important as filling gaps in the Museum's collections. Two books printed in Edinburgh in the seventeenth century are also included in the collection, and these may be acquired by the National Library of Scotland.

Contributions will be made by the Museum and the Friends of the National Libraries. The Pilgrim Trust has also been asked to help, and a special grant of £65,000 is being asked for in a supplementary estimate.

The books offered for sale have been selected with the purpose of filling gaps in the British Museum Library. Many of the fine and rare books at Chatsworth are not included, and if the contemplated sale is completed, Chatsworth will still possess one of the largest and richest libraries in private hands in this country.

We liked particularly the comment made in the *Manchester Guardian's* report of this offer. It read:

"A spokesman for the John Rylands Library in Manchester said yesterday that it would not have been worth offering the books to Manchester first. "Manchester would be unlikely to buy them—that sort of thing is fairly well represented here already."

## Archibald Sparke

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Society of Literature held in London in March, it was decided to offer to Mr. Archibald Sparke, M.A., F.L.A., an Honorary Life Fellowship. Mr. Sparke, who was formerly Borough Librarian of Bolton, is now in his 87th year. He joined the L.A. in 1894 and was elected a Fellow in 1910. He has done considerable voluntary literary work for Lancashire and has compiled several bibliographies.

## BOOKS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

### Russia

Unesco report that a total of eleven hundred million volumes—7,500 volumes (*not* titles) a minute—were published during 1957 in the Soviet Union in the 85 languages used in various parts of the country.

French writers are the most widely read foreign authors in the USSR, with Victor Hugo and Jules Verne heading the list. In recent years a great effort has been made to introduce 20th-century French authors to the Soviet public, and the works of Roger Martin Du Gard, François Mauriac, Vercors, Saint-Exupéry and Louis Aragon are very popular.

The foreign author whose books enjoy the biggest circulation is Jack London; other favourites among American writers are O. Henry, Theodore Dreiser, and Mark Twain. Most popular English authors are Dickens, H. G. Wells, Daniel Defoe, Swift, Galsworthy and Shakespeare.

Arab literature is also being increasingly translated and published in the USSR. Over the past two years a total of 2,383,000 volumes has been published.

### Hungary

New books in a total of 33 million copies were published in Hungary last year—8 million more than in 1955, the last year for which comparative figures are available. In addition 6 million textbooks and 4 million pamphlets and brochures were published.

Since 1951, the amount spent by the public on buying books has risen from just over £3½ million to last year's figure of well over £8 million. In the next three years book production is expected to increase by about 15 per cent.

Mr. József Darvas, president of the Parliamentary Cultural Committee, has announced that next year a small Hungarian encyclopaedia will be published, together with an agricultural encyclopaedia.

### Valuable Books Found in Hungarian School Library

During a recent reorganization of the library at the József Eötvös Grammar School, Budapest, a number of valuable books published in the 16th century were discovered.

Among the "finds" was a copy of Bonfini's *Rarum Hungaricum* (History of Hungary), published in 1581 in Frankfurt in a parchment binding, and *Adagiorum Opus* (Collection of Proverbs) by Erasmus, published in Rotterdam in 1528, also with a parchment binding.

Other books included Albert Szenczi Molnár's *St. David's Psalms*, printed in Debrecen in 1774, a first edition of Peter Pázmány's *Sermons*, published about 1600, and a German book on zoology printed in 1563.

## BOOKS—An International

### DESTINATION TOKYO

#### Japan

Four hundred selected school textbooks which the British Council has sent out to Japan will form a large contribution to the forthcoming International Textbook Exhibition.

Mr. Kay Nishimura of the Japanese Association of Educational and Cultural Communication is organizing the exhibition. The United States and several other European countries are also contributing.

During the next two years the exhibition will travel well over 1,000 miles, from Fukuoka in the south of Japan to Sapporo in the north. It will be set up in the halls of private universities which are found in all the large towns of Japan.

About half the British books deal with the teaching of English as a foreign language. The remainder have been chosen from a large number of publishing firms to demonstrate up-to-date techniques in school-book publication. All the books have been supplied through the Educational Group of the Publishing Association.



## AMERICAN FICTION

### Syracuse Survey

#### U.S.A.

Each year the Syracuse Public Library makes a survey of what American fiction is most in demand among their thousands of borrowers. In the most recent survey ten of the top favourites were: Upton Sinclair, John P. Marquand, Pearl Buck, Booth Tarkington, Mackinlay Kantor, Sinclair Lewis, Ellery Queen, Charles Nordhoff, Hervey Allen and Kenneth Roberts.

*Books from the U.S.A.* (Vol. 2, No. 2, March 1958) says: "As an indication of public taste in the U.S. this list has its own interest." For British librarians the interest in this list will probably lie in the surprising omission of such top-liners as Hemingway, Steinbeck and Faulkner, the post-war blood-and-guts brigade led by Mailer and James Jones, and some of the better younger writers like Saul Bellow and Carson McCullers. The books of some of the authors included in the top ten—for example, Booth Tarkington and Charles Nordhoff—are scarcely available in this country.

Unless British and American fiction tastes are

## International Currency

widely divergent, and some of the best-sellers do not confirm this, the Syracuse surveys might provide some useful ammunition for the London and Home Counties Branch in their campaign to get popular titles back in print in this country.

### Gift to Swedish Library

#### Rare Bibliographies

#### Sweden

The Carolina collection in the Uppsala University Library has been enriched by a gift by the late Hr. Thore Virgin, who possessed one of the finest private libraries in Scandinavia. The gift includes a valuable collection of 800 bibliographical works, and also a sum of over £16,000.

Among the books are a number of works on private libraries in England, France and Denmark. The collection also includes a large amount of literature on incunabula.

*The Times* reports that the money will possibly be used to form a fund for aiding and promoting international research on the history of books and libraries.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Paris Meeting

The International Advisory Committee on Bibliography recently concluded its fourth session in Paris. The meeting, which was opened by the Director-General of Unesco, made suggestions for the study programme of a European symposium on national libraries to be held in the autumn of 1958 at Vienna; adopted resolutions on Unesco's bibliographical publications calling for greater co-operation and co-ordination of activities on an international level; reviewed recent bibliographies prepared with financial assistance from Unesco; examined bibliographical problems involved in the execution of Unesco's major project for the mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values; and studied Unesco's bibliographical programme for 1959-60.

Established in Paris in November 1950 to act as a link between all the specialized bibliographical bodies, the International Advisory Committee has a distinguished membership, including many heads of national libraries. Its Bureau includes M. Julien Cain, Director of the National Library in Paris (Chairman); Mr. F. C. Francis, Keeper of the Department of Printed Books at the British Museum (Vice-Chairman); and Dr. L. Brummel, Director of the Royal Library, The Hague (Secretary-General).

## THIRD PROGRAMME

### French Accent in Drama

Among the Third Programme's plans for the second quarter of this year will be the beginning of an abridged version of Robert Browning's *The Ring and the Book*, which will be presented in nine one-hour parts by some of today's most eminent actors and actresses, including Robert Donat, Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Paul Schofield, Sir Donald Wolfit and Peter Finch.

Radio dramatization of stage-plays will include: Micheal de Gheldrode's *Pontaglieze*, translated by George Hauger; Cocteau's *The Typewriter*, translated by E. J. King-Bull; Euripides' *Hippolytus*, in a new translation; Crommelynck's *Chaud et Froid*, translated by Geoffrey Brereton; Errol John's *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*, which won the *Observer* 1957 Play Contest; Anouilh's *Romeo and Jeanette*, translated by Miriam John; and Marcel Aymé's *Les Oiseaux de Lume*, translated by Edward Hyams. Samuel Beckett will also be represented by the first broadcast of another of his works.

## BOURGEOIS DEWEY

### Adopted in Communist China

The Far Eastern Representative of *The Sunday Times* commented on 2nd March on the way in which Communist China's intense "rectification" campaign is uncovering and correcting manifold sins and errors in a blaze of public revelation and fearless self-criticism.

Among some recent illuminating extracts from the Peking Press he quoted which spotlight the campaign was a report that Wang Han, Vice-Minister of Supervision, and a party member for 25 years, carried his heresy of "cosmopolitanism" to such an extent that he preferred "American bourgeois scholar John (sic) Dewey's 'decimal system' in handling the department's records instead of the provisions correctly laid down by the State Archives Bureau".

## New Recruitment Line

### Dewey-Eyed Maidens

*Smith's Trade News* on January 11th included an amusing article entitled *Booklovers—Fellow Librarian discovers the answer to an age old problem*. Starting point for Fellow Librarian's musings was the discovery of one of those small-type newspaper reports which said:

"The turnover of young women librarians is very rapid indeed. No sooner is a librarian installed at her desk than students seek her out, and before long a proposal of marriage is forthcoming." The punch line, says Fellow Librarian, was reserved for the end—"The librarian's desk has become springboard number one to the altar."

The author of the article saw this immediately as the answer to the librarian's dilemma and the maiden's prayer. Why should not librarians exploit the "marriage angle" to solve their recruitment difficulties? "DO YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED? BOOK A HUSBAND AT THE LIBRARY" will be the slogan which librarians will use to entice girls on to their staffs.

"Who knows," says Fellow Librarian, "that librarianship may not become one of the fashionable jobs on a par with being an air hostess, fashion model or interior decorator? Debs, now that they are to have more time on their hands, might spend some of it working in a library."

The article ends on a nice note, with a reminder that not all girls who work in libraries manage to land husbands. It offers them one comforting thought, which might also be used as a slogan for staff recruitment. "If you have to be left on the shelf, what better place than in a library?"

## CATALOGUING & CLASSIFICATION

### New Practical Paper

Students are reminded that the new form of practical cataloguing and classification paper for Registration Group A (iii) will be introduced in the Summer 1958 examinations. It will contain ten examples, only two of which have to be catalogued in full.

The rest of the paper will require the selection of headings only. The new form of paper was set out in the *Library Association Record* for November, 1956, pages 439-440. The formal twelve months' notice of this new form of paper was given in the *Record* in May, 1957, page 171.

## CLASSIFIERS IN THE NORTH

A meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on 13th May in the Lecture Room of the Manchester Central Library for the purpose of bringing together librarians and information officers interested in the study of classification, and of finding out whether there is sufficient support in the north of England for the formation of a classification study group. The speaker will be Mr. B. C. Vickery, M.A., Hon. Secretary of the Classification Research Group in London and Librarian, Imperial Chemical Industries, Akers Research Laboratories. He will give a general review of the work of the Group and discuss some of its problems and plans.

Members wanting further details should write to the Hon. Secretary, Aslib, Northern Branch, Miss E. Boddy, The Retreat, Tideswell Lane, Eyam, near Sheffield.

## STUDENTS AND CANDIDATES

A meeting of the **Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch** of the Scottish Library Association was held on 15th January. Mr. C. S. Minto, President of the Scottish Library Association, attended to present the Association's prizes to the two outstanding students at the Scottish School of Librarianship, Miss Forrester and Mr. Ballantyne. The latter unfortunately was unable to attend.

After the presentation, Mr. W. Scobbie of Airdrie Public Library gave an amusing and helpful talk on the pitfalls to be avoided when being interviewed for a post by a library committee. He illustrated his points with the aid of Messrs. Paton, Clark and Tait who ably played the parts of the unsuccessful and successful "candidates".



## BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

In our report on the L.A. Evidence to the Roberts Committee (*Liaison*, March, p. 118) it is stated that East Ham and Barking had referred library matters to the Education Committee. In point of fact this is not so in the case of Barking. The error arose because for many years the Director of Education has acted as Secretary of the Library Committee and has conducted some of its correspondence.

## British Institute of Management

Librarians will have noticed that *The Times* carried some notes at the end of January about re-organization at the British Institute of Management, and consequent staff cuts. These cuts, it was said, would include "information officers."

In response to an enquiry, Mr. Whatmore, who recently transferred from the *Manchester Guardian* to become Chief Librarian at the B.I.M., said: "It is pleasant to be able to say that in the present instance there is really no story for you in the recent *Times* article about B.I.M. affairs. I can state quite frankly that the Library will not in any way be affected by the organizational changes pending at B.I.M. Indeed I have plans for developing our activities which are going ahead."

"The B.I.M. Council recognizes that the Management Library is in the front line of subscriber services, and it is in effect, as you know, a national library of management literature. Its loans and information services are much in demand. Therefore whatever concentration of effort there may be elsewhere, the Library will continue to flourish and expand along its present lines. Our budget is untouched and the recently advertised library appointments have now been filled."

"I would be happy," Mr. Whatmore concludes, "if you would reassure any *Liaison* readers who may have been alarmed by the recent press statements."

## Translating for Hancock

In the B.B.C. television presentation of Gogol's "The Government Inspector", on 9th February, the translation from the original Russian was by Dr. D. J. Campbell, Assistant Director of Aslib. Dr. Campbell, who is an Associate of the L.A., is well known to many librarians and was previously Librarian of the Chester Beatty Cancer Research Institute.

## MEANS TEST?

I learn from your February issue that two members of Council have had their coats unofficially removed from the cloak-room at Chaucer House.

While conceding that the Association may have no legal liability in this connection, may I ask why discrimination is being shown in compensating the owners of the coats for their loss?

Is it because they were present at Chaucer House on official business? But so was I—attending a meeting of the G.L.D. Committee—when my coat was removed in 1952; the Association's Secretary informed me that although such things happened fairly frequently, under no circumstances could the L.A. consider compensation to the victims.

Digging up the past in a spirit of sour grapes? Not really—just a passing suspicion, on which I should welcome your views, that Council members may be in greater need of compensation than members of minor Committees.

J. R. HOWES  
Paddington P.L.

## ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF LIBRARIANSHIP

Bowes and Bowes announce that they will be publishing in May an *Encyclopaedia of Librarianship*, edited by Thomas Landau, A.L.A., who also edited the *Who's Who in Librarianship* which was published by the same firm a few years ago. The price of the new encyclopaedia will be 63s.

It is designed as a quick reference work and follows a simple, alphabetic arrangement, with articles and entries ranging from a few words defining a term to signed monographs on the more important subjects. The contributors, of whom there are more than sixty, are, it is claimed, all experts on their particular subjects.

The scope of the subjects treated follows fairly closely the syllabus of the Library Association professional examinations, and ranges beyond the field of pure librarianship into that of the printing, paper making and allied industries.

## Librarian's Observatory

A new departure in "extension activities" was brought to our attention by the *Daily Telegraph*, which reported on 1st March that Mr. George Robinson, librarian of Crayford, Kent, had assembled a public observatory on the flat roof of his library. This has been officially opened, and we understand that Mr. Robinson was interviewed on one of the television programmes.

## PICK OF THE POPS

### All Shakespeare Being Recorded

All Shakespeare's plays and poems are being recorded in full, and most of them will probably be completed by 1964, the 400th anniversary of the Bard's birth. The first three available were *Othello*, *As You Like It* and *Troilus and Cressida*, out on 17th March. *Julius Caesar*, *Coriolanus* and *Richard II* will follow in June. About four of the plays will be issued each year in future.

This notable enterprise is sponsored by the British Council, one of whose chief activities is promoting the learning of English and the study of English literature overseas. For many years requests have been coming for full-length recordings of Shakespeare's plays, especially from countries where they are studied in schools and colleges but where stage productions of them are rarely or never seen. The British Council report that orders for the recordings have already come from universities as far away as Vancouver and Hong Kong.

The recordings are being made by the Marlowe Society of Cambridge University, directed by Mr. George Rylands, for issue on 12 inch long-playing discs by the Argo Record Company in association with the Cambridge University Press. The players are all present and former members of the Marlowe Society, except for actresses engaged for certain of the female roles, and, as with all of the Society's productions, the players remain anonymous.

The text being used complete and uncut is that of *The New Shakespeare*, edited by Professor Dover Wilson and published by the Cambridge University Press. The music has been assembled and edited by Mr. Thurston Dart from sources of the period, and Mr. Arthur Wragg has been commissioned to design covers for the series of recordings.

## New Mobile Library Service

### Reported on T.V.

On 20th February a short film was included in the B.B.C.'s South-East Region Television News of the inauguration of a mobile library service in Surrey. Some details were given about shelf capacity, heating, lighting, etc., and the film showed the library being handed over by Mrs. Cobbett, Chairman of the County Library Committee. With the Mayoress of Reigate and the Deputy Mayor she inspected the books.

The mobile library will be based at Ewell, and will serve Hersham, near Walton-on-Thames, Tattenham, near Tattenham Corner, and Merstham.

## MUSICAL TIMES

The *Times* of 21st March included an interesting review by its Music Critic of the *British Union Catalogue of Early Music* (Butterworths Scientific Publications, 2 vols., £21) and *The British Catalogue of Music*. Attention was drawn to the growth of music departments in public libraries, and to the services of Aslib, the International Association of Music Libraries and the Central Music Library. The article concluded:

"There remains, then, a gap of 156 years (not covered by either of these publications—EDS.)—a formidable gap indeed but no more daunting than the prospect which confronted the compilers of the *British Union Catalogue of Early Music*, now triumphantly brought to fruition."

In drawing this article to the attention of librarians may we warn students in particular that even *The Times* can be wrong. For example—"Preceding this catalogue of early music by exactly a year was the first quarterly issue of the *British Catalogue of Music*, published by Hinrichsen. The initiative for this complementary tool of the librarian's equipment came from the Council of the British National Bibliography, which was formed in 1849."

Examiners, keep your blue pencils poised—*The Times* is out of joint.

## Institute of Information Scientists

At the meeting on 23rd January (see *Liaison*, January, p. 102) it was agreed to establish an Institute of Information Scientists and it was also agreed in principle that admittance to the Institute as Associate, Member or Fellow shall eventually be by examination. The syllabus of examinations has yet to be decided but it was suggested it should include techniques of abstracting, indexing and the presentation of information. The steering committee comprised J. Farradane (Tate & Lyle), C. W. Hanson (Brit. Scientific Instrument R.A.), F. Liebesny (Mond Nickel), and J. B. Reed (D.S.I.R.). One speaker told the meeting that as a result of the attendance by invitation only, in his department much of the information work was done by an A.L.A., who had not been invited, whereas his own degree was in Classics.

## REPORT ON WOLFENDEN

The trustees of the National Central Library have appointed Sir John Wolfenden, Vice-Chancellor of Reading University, an individual member of the board of trustees.

# LIBRARIANS ON TOUR

Mr. R. S. Goyal, Chief Technical Assistant at the Public Library in Delhi, has been visiting rural libraries in England. This is part of a three and a half months' tour planned for him by the British Council, during which he also visited libraries at Leyton, Luton, Bristol and Manchester. Mr. Goyal is a former joint editor of *ABGILA*, journal of the Indian Library Association.

Seven librarians from Uruguay arrived in London at the beginning of February for a busy eight-day programme organized by the British Council. This incidentally was third stage on a European tour which includes Spain, France and Germany. The visitors set out to inspect seven famous London libraries in their first three days, and left one day free for sightseeing. Two days each were allocated to Oxford and Cambridge. The visitors, adds the British Council press report, "are paying their own expenses."

Early in their itinerary the South American librarians paid a visit to Chaucer House to meet the President and some of the L.A. Council for tea.

## German Librarians Visit England

A party of some twenty German librarians, all members of the Verein Deutscher Volksbibliothekare, spent a fortnight in March extending their knowledge of British libraries and librarianship. A very full study tour programme had been arranged for them by The Library Association and Anglo-German Education Relations (G.E.R.).

Highspot of the tour was an Anglo-German Conference held at Chaucer House on 14th March. The morning session was presided over by Mr. Sydney, and was devoted to "The administration of libraries—national and local financial aspects". A paper on the position in Germany was given by a member of the visiting party, and Mr. K. G. Hunt, Borough Librarian of Hammersmith, presented the British picture.

The President, Professor Irwin, chaired the afternoon session, which was devoted to "Training for librarianship as a profession". Miss Paulin, Chairman of the L.A.'s Education Sub-Committee, spoke on training in Great Britain and a member of the visiting party on professional education in Germany.

During the rest of the tour the German librarians also heard lectures on The Library Association and the work of the different departments, given by Mr. Welsford and senior officers of the Association, and a lecture on the history and development of

the public library movement in the United Kingdom, given by Mr. P. H. Sewell, Head of the Department of Librarianship at the N.W. Polytechnic.

Public libraries visited in the London area included Westminster, Holborn, St. Marylebone, Hampstead, Hammersmith, Kensington, Hendon and Leyton, and a number of provincial libraries were visited towards the end of the tour.

Visits were also made to the British Museum Library, The British National Bibliography, The Library of the University of London at Senate House, The National Central Library, the libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords, Oxford and Cambridge.

## Lehigh Fellowship

Miss Margaret E. Evans, B.A., F.L.A., Assistant Librarian, University College, Cardiff, has been offered the Commonwealth Research Librarianship at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, U.S.A., for the academic year 1958-59.

The fellowship, which has been offered to qualified librarians from the British Commonwealth since 1953, is competitive and Miss Evans has been selected from candidates throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. James D. Mack, Librarian of Lehigh University, in notifying this year's award to the Secretary stated that the standard set this year was the highest since the beginning of the programme.

## WANTED

### Children's Librarian

Mr. J. E. V. Birch, Borough Librarian of Taunton, will shortly be leaving for Western Australia where he has been appointed City Librarian of Fremantle.

He informs us that he requires a suitably qualified young woman to assist organize and develop the service to children in Fremantle. The salary will be £A.851-£A.1,011.

Mr. Birch would be glad to hear from any young woman who would like to know more about the job.

## Nuffield Grant for N.B.L.

The Trustees of the Nuffield Foundation have made a generous grant to the National Book League towards the cost of encouraging the provision of suitable reading material for adolescent and young adult backward readers.



## Staff Conditions at Birmingham

"Is Birmingham so poor?" asks *The Birmingham Post and Gazette*. In its issue for 25th February it reported that some £15,000 had been taken off the estimates the Libraries' Committee submitted, £8,000 being taken off the book-fund, the rest off improvements to buildings "and so forth". "Which brings me," said the reporter, "to the door in the Central Reference Library marked 'Staff'."

The report goes on to say that no improvements have been made to the staff facilities for some 70 years and "members of the male staff, it is claimed, still have to carry water in jugs to fill the hand-basins. So poor, in fact, are the provisions that the staff has ceased to use them—preferring to go out into Ratcliff Place and use what the Public Works Department provides there."

Once again, says the *Birmingham Post and Gazette*, "the staff room has fallen victim to economy—instead of providing new appointments, a suggestion is to be made to the Public Works Committee that the staff should be given access free to the establishment outside." The report ends with the question: "Is the city in such dire financial straits that it has to make an arrangement as extraordinary as this?"

### Mr. Woods, City Librarian of Birmingham, comments:

"The Public Libraries Committee agree that the toilet accommodation for the staff at the Central Library is inadequate and out-of-date. A scheme for alterations, including new accommodation, has been prepared and is now under consideration.

"The second paragraph in the report from the *Birmingham Post* is an exaggeration; staff have not ceased to use the toilet provisions at the Central Library and few, if any, would prefer to use what the Public Works Department provides in Ratcliff Place."

## NEWSROOM NEWS

### Provincial Sensitivity

A recent article in the *Manchester Guardian* under the heading "Reading Room Sleepers", discussed the question of Reading Rooms in public libraries. Oldham, Blackburn and Manchester were visited and frank statements on the character and purpose of these rooms were made by the appropriate librarians. The main use of these rooms it seems is to offer sleeping space for the aged—all the more so in the old-fashioned libraries.

The *Local Government Chronicle* took up this matter and turned its eye upon some London libraries. Westminster, Holborn, Kensington and St. Marylebone were among those visited and were found to be hives of the right kind of industry. Whitechapel's was "a scene of lively activity" and not wholly concerned with the bibliothecal. This part of the article was concluded with "the age of the reading room does not seem to have ended in the centre of London".

Another of this journal's correspondents reported his investigations of some provincial towns, whose provision of reading rooms varied from a so-called

model one to others of very doubtful quality. These comments may have been of use but regrettably they were prefaced by the statement, "Provincial towns are rather sensitive to any of their idiosyncrasies being analysed in a national paper. The identity of the towns which are mentioned in this brief survey must therefore be somewhat disguised." In disguise they are quite unrecognizable, and one wonders: "are many of our provincial colleagues so timid and sensitive that they object to fair-minded surveys of their systems?" Is there in fact basis for this quite open statement by a reporter? One wonders too about the code of morality that allows for the naming of certain local authorities, such as the London and North-Western, but balks at possible offence to other provincials.

### Anglo-Scandinavian Conference

All arrangements have now been made for the Anglo-Scandinavian Conference to take place at St. John's College, York, from 29th July to 2nd August. Full details of the programme and speakers appear in the April *Record*.